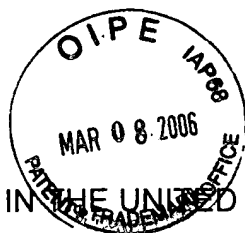


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Masaaki NAKASHIMA

Group Art Unit: 2613

Appln. No. : 09/931,881

Examiner: Shawn S. AN

Filed : August 20, 2001

Confirmation No.: 4044

For : IMAGING ELEMENT FOR ELECTRONIC ENDOSCOPES AND
ELECTRONIC ENDOSCOPE EQUIPPED WITH THE IMAGING
ELEMENT

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

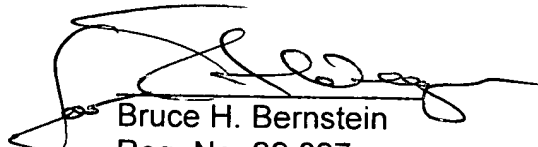
Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop Issue Fee
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria VA 22314

Sir:

In response to the Notice of Allowability, mailed by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on December 16, 2005 and to the Statement of Reasons for Allowance attached thereto, Applicant wishes to clarify the record with respect to the basis for the patentability of claims in the present application. While Applicant does not disagree with the Examiner's indication that certain identified features are not disclosed by the references, Applicant submits that each of the claims in the present application recite a particular combination of features, and that the basis for patentability of each of these claims is based on the totality of the particular features recited therein.

Should there be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Masaaki NAKASHIMA



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March 2, 2006
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